

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 5, 2008**

On Tuesday, August 5, 2008, the Edgefield County Council held its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 P. M. in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield.

**Members present**

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman  
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman  
Norman Dorn, Councilman  
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

**Members absent**

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

**Others present**

John W. Pettigrew, Jr., County Administrator  
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney  
Lynn W. Strom, Finance/Budget Manager  
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council  
and others as per list attached

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by the Administrator, John Pettigrew. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Councilman Dorn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the August 5, 2008, Council Agenda as presented.

**Minutes**

The motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2008, Edgefield County Council meeting, as presented, was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

No comments.

**Public Hearing**

A Public Hearing was held on the following ordinance to receive written and/or oral comments from the public:

**Ordinance No. 08-09-600, "An Ordinance Calling for a Referendum to be Held on Election Day, November 4, 2008, on Whether Terms of Office for Edgefield County Council Members Shall be Changed from Two Year Terms to Four Year Staggered Terms."**

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 5, 2008**

Mr. Bob Ramsey (Merriwether District) spoke in support of Ordinance No. 08-09-600. "I think it will be good for the county. Right now, currently, out of the forty six (46) counties in South Carolina only three do not have staggered terms. We elect our council members every two years and, I think as most of you know, that going into any type of a job, it takes at least a year to really figure out what you are doing and what you are supposed to be doing. I think that is unfair to the incumbent and to the officials who will be elected. I think it is unfair to the county government and unfair to the taxpayers. They have to survive for a year while the person who has been elected gains his learning curve during his first year and sometimes even longer. So, therefore, I would be much in favor of the four-year staggered terms. It would bring us more in line with the rest of the state and the more progressive counties of the state.

In addition, one of the main objectives of this county is trying to get some economic expansion and growth. An industry coming into this county one of the first things they will look at before they make a decision is the type of government you have and, as you know, we have the county council-administrator form of government. This body here is the governing body of this county and if this body is subject to re-election every two years then that industry is going to look very hard at this county and whether they want to stand a chance of coming in and putting in an outlay of capital and possibly having the rules of the road change after two years. Therefore, it is a possibility if we remain at every two years we will lose the opportunity of some large businesses coming in.

I know there are those who say that you can really throw the bums out every two years. That is easy to say, but it is also difficult for a body to govern when they know they are going to have to run for election every two years. Now, this year we avoided a possible situation where we could have had an entire change of body of change sitting here in front of us. In my opinion, that would have been a disaster for the county, not only for those who have been elected to the five positions but also to those of us who pay taxes and are a part of this County. So, therefore, I would like to see this ordinance passed, I hope enough support can be generated for it from the public to get it passed. I know this effort (referendum) has been turned down several times. I will do my utmost to help support the referendum if it is on the ballot."

Mr. Norman Stephenson stated that he agreed with Mr. Ramsey.

**Ordinances**

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-599, "An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the code of Ordinances for Edgefield County, SC." Motion carried unanimously.

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 5, 2008**

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-600, "An Ordinance Calling for a Referendum to be Held on Election Day, November 4, 2008, on Whether Terms of Office for Edgefield County Council Members Shall be Changed from Two Year Terms to Four Year Staggered Terms." Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolutions**

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve Resolution No. 08-09-307, "A Resolution Providing For an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Edgefield and McCormick Counties, Whereby the Two Counties Will Jointly Utilize Edgefield County's Convenience Center Located at the Intersection US Highway 378 and S-19-67." Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

**Summer Lake Drive**

Guy Mueller, Administrator of C-Funds, explained this is a paved road and does meet the criteria for acceptance into the county maintenance system. Mr. Wayne King has had a deed prepared for council's approval deeding this road to the county. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to accept this road into the county maintenance system. Motion carried unanimously.

**PARD Funds**

The formula for the distribution of PARD funds for the three towns and the county parks (Northside and Bettis) has in the past years derived from the 2000 Census data (based on population). The amount received for 2009 is \$21,774.08. Chairman Kneee's recommendation to council was to keep the same procedure as before. Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to use the same formula for the distribution of the 2009 PARD funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**EMA update**

Both transmitter buildings (north & south sites) now have forced air ventilation systems in them to move air. Also Mike is looking into generator contracts for periodic maintenance on the generators at the sites, as well as the generator at the council chambers (EOC) and the generator located at the EMS building. All of the generators were purchased on grants. Contracts for periodic maintenance on both the fire and ambulance service radios at both towers.

Of course still to be considered is a new location for the north tower which depends on council's decision for new offices which Mike understands is undecided at this time, but he wanted council to know he has obtained a \$90,000 grant to use toward that project (north tower). It is a 50-50 match. We are looking at whether a portion of the county's

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 5, 2008**

match can be used in what is called “soft-match” where we show our contribution of labor in other areas that we contribute towards this work and hopefully we will get some of that counted rather than in actual dollars. They (EMA) are looking at additional grants.

Because Mike and Sandy are turning down applying for grants he suggested to council they consider employing a grant writer for Edgefield County. Saluda County has done this and they have really come on to some great grants. This person could write grants for any county government body with the assistance from that particular office. The grant writer would make certain the grant goes through the proper hands and they would administer the money as it goes through. The oversight of the grant would be with the department head.

There are some grant writers that will charge a flat fee to write a grant. But if they do not administer the grant through the lifetime of the grant it does not help the county (a grant can take as long as two years to go through the system). Most grants allow the figuring in of the cost of the grant-writer writing the grant. You get your money back that way. The grant-writer’s fee is reimbursed to the county so then at that time when we get reimbursed for the fee for writing the grant then we turn that over to the grant writer. And/or, they can be put on a commission basis.

- \$90,000 grant
- \$25,000 grant available for transmitter buildings at tower sites
- \$2,500 in de-obligated money to buy new projector equipment for EMS/EMA/Fire Dept. to use for training
- Sandy’s salary (50%) is now being paid by State EMA, plus she gets additional reimbursement for being a CERT instructor
- 50% of Mike’s salary is being paid by the state

We are not getting the \$100,000/\$200,000 FEMA grants that we used to get so we are having to make up the equivalent of that amount of money (little grants).

We are putting the final touches on the debris management plan. If it is approved by FEMA they will pick up 80% of the costs of any debris recovery and removal in Edgefield County if there is a major storm rather than 75%. This also applies to the towns.

One of Mike’s strong points is that they are moving forward with grants with everything that is to be done administratively but the county is quickly reaching the end of the line with the North transmitter building. He will go on with putting out bids for a new transmitter building for the South tower in Merriwether because that is a wooden building and if catches fire all of the tens of thousands of dollars of two-way radio equipment will

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 5, 2008**

go up in flames. The tower would be stressed from the heat and would fall. That is all that is needed at the south tower is a new building. He will wait for further direction on a new north tower from council.

Mike brought another issue before council. Prior to coming to the meeting he had a call on the west side of the county. He stated there was very poor communications today. A third short-stick tower, instead of a 300 ft. tower, maybe a 150 ft. tower, could be erected, or maybe get on someone else's tower out there and get a grant to buy the additional radio equipment. Then, you would have a tower that would fill in.

Motion was made by Chairman Kneece, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve a grant writer for Edgefield County. Have Upper Savannah COG assist in the process. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time the Chairman read the announcement of the addition of one hundred (100) employees at the Urban Outfitters that is located in the Industrial Park

**No Old Business.**

**Administrator's Report**

- The EC Alliance met Monday, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> and approved the by-laws and elected officers.
- Courthouse painting is completed – inside of main courtroom and outside the building.
- Walk-thru metal detector system is working well.
- Working on proposals for camera system, ID cards for employees.
- Recreation. Football and cheerleading sign-ups are now in progress

**Guests**

Linda Anderson inquired as to whether council had received the information on the airport concerning the lease on the hangars that will expire Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. The administrator stated that he had talked with the Andersons and the current people that are leasing the hangars. The ones involved have asked they be allowed to continue at the \$1.00 charge. The original ones are no longer using the airport and have assigned the lease to others.

According to Mrs. Anderson, the support of the airport comes from hangars the Andersons have built and are leasing. These expenses are great. The owners of the other hangars (original ones) are lending no support at all and the Andersons would like a charge of at least \$165 per month to be included in the new lease.

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
August 5, 2008**

**Comments from Public**

Mrs. Essie Nicholson updated the council on the Women in Unity Rally. About 400 people attended. She thanked council for their financial support and invited them to come observe what they are doing. She asked council again if they could help her out on obtaining a larger building.

**Claims approved:**

**PAYROLL: 6/30/08 thru 7/13/08**

Regular.....\$233,908.97

**PAYROLL: 7/14/08 thru 7/27/08**

Regular.....\$222,607.74

**General Operating.....\$1,172,922.65**

**Executive Session**

Councilman Dorn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Bright, to go in executive session pursuant to Code Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) of the SC Code of Laws 1976, as amended, concerning a proposed contractual arrangement, and returning to regular session at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Returning to regular session, the Chairman stated they discussed the Calliham building. No further development in getting their contract and law suits settled. We will discuss this further at council's called meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>. If nothing more at that time, council will discuss whether to extend the option on the land.

There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Hudson. A unanimous vote to adjourn. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, 2008. A Called Council meeting will be held at 5:30 PM Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> in the council chambers.

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
August 5, 200**

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C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

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Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

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Norman Dorn, Councilman

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Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

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B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

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Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

